(e) whether any proposal to open any branch of National Handicraft Development Corporation is under consideration in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA) : (a) There is no Corporation in the name of National Handicrafts Development Corporation in the handicrafts sector anywhere in the country.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Special package for workers in powerloom and handloom sectors

882. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a special package for millions of workers in the powerloom and handloom sectors many of whom have suffered terrible losses due to the liberalization of the economy and have committed suicide and thousands have become jobless;

(b) whether there is a proposal to provide cheap power to this sector keeping in view of the fact that the shortage and high rates of power has hit this sector more than any other; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to open depots to provide cheap raw material to these handloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA) : (a) No, Sir. Government has not received any information that due to the liberalization of the economy millions of workers in the powerloom and handloom sectors have suffered terrible losses and have committed suicides and thousands have become jobless.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There are 94 yarn depots already functioning in the country at various places through which hank yarn is supplied to handloom weavers under the Mill Gate Price Scheme which provides for reimbursement of transport cost on yarn.